

Heriberto Cordero
Principal of Fair Haven School

Good evening Senator Harp and Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Heriberto Cordero the principal of Fair Haven School in New Haven CT. Thank you for allowing me to send a written testimony of the family resource center at our school. I will unfortunately be out of state on Tuesday but want to express the vital importance of our family resource center. Fair Haven School services a population of nearly 900 students from PreK to 8th grade. It is a very impoverished community with very high needs (90% free and reduced lunch). In addition of the 900 students around 600 are learning to speak English as their second language. Of the hundreds of students many are new in the country and don't have much as they are just starting up in our country. The family resource center is a tremendous support to these students and their families. Our family resource staff Luz Betencour is incredible. She works with these families to ensure success for the students by ensuring success for their families. Here are a few of the many wonderful services our Family Resource Center is able to provide which strengthens our school community and ensures students are focused in school:

- Before and after school student programming
- Parenting classes
- Home visitation
- Family support with finding job employment, food assistance, clothing assistance, application assistance, education assistance, etc.
- Critical connection between parents and school – critical link between school and home in all aspects of communication and school sponsored parent nights.

The family resource center at Fair Haven School is truly remarkable and our school would be crippled without their critical support. They are a vital and irreplaceable anchor in our school community. Thank you for your continued support of our family resource center.

Heriberto Cordero